



Our state has flourished because every student has access to a high quality public education. California's universities, community colleges and career and technical training programs provide access to a wide range of career and life opportunities for all who choose to pursue them.

"Whether students are college-bound or headed for career and technical training, education is the one factor that can supersede all others and level the playing field," Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said. "Education opens the door to a hopeful, prosperous future and the American dream."

Historically, our state universities and community colleges have been both affordable and of the highest caliber, because of the importance California has placed on investing in future generations. Unfortunately, in recent years, our state's commitment has wavered. Rather than increasing investment in post-high school education, we now rely on higher tuition and student fees. This has the inevitable effect of limiting access to our colleges, reducing course-offerings and preventing some students from sharing in the opportunities that were available to us.

The Lieutenant Governor has a fundamental role in California's higher education system, serving as a Regent of the University of California and as a Trustee of the State University system. These positions make him influential in the future direction of our state universities. The Lieutenant Governor believes that investment in programs to better prepare students for higher education; assist them in the transition to college; and promote career and technical education for those not college-bound, are key elements to future generations' success.

High school programs that promote writing and math skills and encourage the study of the sciences must be widely available, along with programs that encourage and assist students to graduate. Those not headed for university-level educations should have access to career training that prepare them to enter occupations such as building and construction, allied health, public safety, and automotive and computer technology.

Reducing the economic burdens of fees and tuition on students and parents is critical to the success and availability of our education system. The Lieutenant Governor strongly advocates aligning community college and university offerings and curricula with the needs and direction of our economy.

The Lieutenant Governor understands the economic strength of our state and our ability to compete in the global marketplace is inextricably linked to these reforms. He believes we cannot continue to rely on meeting significant elements of our workforce needs from beyond California's borders, if we are to remain a world-class leader in business, technology and bioscience.

Advocacy in Action- Drawing the Line on Student Fee Increases

As a UC Regent and CSU Trustee, Lt. Governor Garamendi has been a leading voice in demanding transparency in executive compensation, opposing the ongoing tuition increases for students and an advocate for faculty and service staff pay equity.

- [Lt. Governor Garamendi Draws the Line on Student Fee Increases](#)
- [Freeze California's College Fees- LA Times OpEd](#)
- [On California's Priorities- SF Chronicle Op Ed](#)